

279BC

King Pyrrhus defeated the Roman legions at ASCULUM:

Extremely hard fought, heavy casualties on both sides. The grueling power of the phalanx was faced by the native stubbornness and triplex acies system which allowed the Romans to feed fresh troops into their fighting line. Pyrrhus also had elephants which the Romans

found terrifying. Many legions of this period
were composed of and led by veterans
of the war with Hannibal